Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend without prejudice the Specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 34 of page 16 as follows:

--As shown in the figure, the distributed digital signature generation apparatus [[1]] 2 includes a certain number of partial digital signature generation parts 13 and an integrated digital signature generation part 14.--.

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at line 23 of page 17 as follows:

--The "Pair Of Digital Document and Partial Digital Signature" 17 is shown in Figure 3.--.

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 18 as follows:

--The "Digital Document With Additional Information" 18 and the "Pair Of Digital Document With Additional Information And Partial Digital Signature" 19 are shown in Figure 4.--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 21 as follows:

--In the configuration shown in Figs. 2 and 3, each partial digital signature part 13i calculates $S_i(M) = H(M)^{D(i)} \mod N$ $(1 \leq I \leq r)$ for the input digital document M by using a proper hash function (for example, SHA-1 and MD5) whose range is included in $\{0, 1, \ldots, N-1\}$. $S_i(M)$ is defined as a partial digital signature 16 for M.--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 27 as follows:

--As shown in Fig. 6, m subsets I (0), . . ., I (m-1) of $\{r(1), \ldots, r(m)\}$ are selected such that each I (i) consisting of k elements and I (i) = (r (((j+i +) mod m) + 1) | $0 \leq j \leq k$ m-1) (I = 0, . . ., m-1} in step 61.--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 12 of page 27 as follows:

--The integrated digital signature S (M' , I(i) is generated from $\{S_{r(j)} (M') \mid r(j) \in I(i)\}$ for each I (i) (i = 0, . . ., m-1) in step 62.--.

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 27 as follows:

--The next step 64 of Figure 7 is performed as follows:--.